

Hawaii MARINE

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1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

More return home

Lava Dogs redeploy from Operation Iraqi Freedom

Compiled by Public Affairs Office
MCB Hawaii

Approximately 275 Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned to Hawaii, with groups arriving April 7 through 9. 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Marines arrived in Hawaii after being deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism for seven months.

The first group of returnees from Operation Iraqi Freedom arrived at the Honolulu International Airport amid shouts of joy from spouses, families, friends, and fellow Marines, and music from the Marine Forces Pacific Band.

It was this group that deployed from Hawaii to Okinawa, Japan, in early July 2004 to train as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. When the 31st MEU received orders to the Persian Gulf, the Marines left Okinawa in August — on their way to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Marines from 1/3 and the 31st MEU arrived in Iraq just in time to participate in the liberation of Fallujah from insurgents.

Amidst the crowd that was anxiously waiting the return of their loved ones, was Bob Winter, a former Sailor and father of young Cpl. Damon Winter of Weapons Platoon, Charlie Company. It had been more than one year since Bob Winter had seen his son, who he had flown from Phoenix, Ariz., as a surprise.

"I was so glad to see someone here waiting for me when I came outside," said Cpl. Winter. "It's something you don't realize is that important to you, but when you see your father's face there waiting for you with so much anticipation, it really feels good inside."

The Marines, members of the 1/3 advance party, have begun preparations for the arrival of the remainder of the battalion. First Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, is the largest contingent of Marines to return to Hawaii from combat in Iraq to date, so the advance party will have a lot of preparation to do before welcoming home the rest of their fellow Marines.

Included in this group of Marines was Staff Sgt. William F. Hornsby, who had not yet seen his three-month-old son, Ethan. Beth Hornsby waited patiently for her husband to appear through the glass doors at the airport so she could introduce father to son.

"I just can't wait to see him again," said Beth Hornsby as she clenched the hands of the many other anxious spouses nearby.

As William appeared, Beth's face lit up with a smile that stretched from ear to ear. She hugged her husband tightly before introducing young Ethan.

"Being home feels better than I thought it would, and, of course, a bit less stressful than

See RETURN, A-9



Maj. Andrew J. Kostic Jr., executive officer of Battalion Landing Team, 1/3, hugs his three young girls upon his arrival at the Honolulu International Airport, April 7. His three children ran and jumped into his arms when they saw him return from a seven-month deployment in support in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

2/3 braves cold temps, altitude



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Pfc. Kyle C. Henson, infantryman, Weapons Company, 2/3, from Fort Collins, Colo., runs to get into position to secure the area after an improvised explosive device attack.

Sgt. Robert M. Storm
Combat Correspondent

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif.

Numbing cold, bitter winds, snow and decreased oxygen from the high altitude — these are just a few of the challenges that faced 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment during their two-week training cycle that began March 21 at the Mountain Warfare Training Center. Although the MWTC is located in Bridgeport, Calif., in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, exercises are sometimes conducted 90 miles away at Hawthorne, Nev., and at elevations of 8,000 feet and higher, as the Marines of 2/3 discovered when they trained for their upcoming deployment.

"We tried to simulate the difficulties of operating a battalion in a mountain environment for sustained operations," said Col. Joe G. Schwankl, commanding officer, MWTC. "We spread the battalion out from Bridgeport to Hawthorne in order to reproduce the logistical prob-



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

After a long day in the bitter cold, Marines from 2/3, stand in line for hot chow, which was served almost every night.

lems of mountain warfare."

With Headquarters Company as a base and four other companies spread out in all different directions support suddenly becomes a big issue. Little things like hot chow, water, supplies and fire support aren't little things in a mountain environment. Roads can be blocked by landslides or impassable due to snow and travel is difficult

under the best of conditions. With companies spread out over 60 miles, 100 miles if traveling by road, many times a company will be beyond the reach of wheeled vehicle help and will require air support.

"Extreme cold weather is the toughest climate for us to operate in,

See 2/3, A-8

Dragon Eye keeps insurgents on the run

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — A low, buzzing sound was heard as the unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle known to U.S. Marines as the Dragon Eye, swooped over the patrol leader's head and out through the jagged mountainous terrain, guided by its two nose-mounted cameras and its operator located a few miles away. The operator, maintaining close control of the vehicle, monitors the site from which he believed terrorists had recently fired rockets at his patrol.

The use of the Dragon Eye by the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, "America's Battalion," in Afghanistan marks the first time a Marine Corps unmanned aerial vehicle has been used in the Operation Enduring Freedom theater. On the heels of its successful employment during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah, the Marines of the battalion are using the Dragon Eye in the high elevations and difficult terrain of eastern Afghanistan to gain an important advantage over insurgent threats.

The small Kevlar and fiberglass vehicle has been giving the Marines on the ground a whole new perspective and a tactical edge.

Just a few years since being designed at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, the Dragon Eye is coming into its own as "over-the-next-hill, around-the-next-corner" surveillance technology. The Dragon Eye can go completely unnoticed by the enemy, weighing in at just five pounds and leaving only the radar signature of a bird.

Every company in America's Battalion, including Headquarters, is utilizing the Dragon Eye and Service Company, which has been task organized to conduct provisional rifle company operations.

"They don't see or hear the Dragon Eye at all when I raise the altitude," said Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Headquarters and Service Company Dragon Eye operator. "I can see what the enemy is doing without alerting them or putting a nearby patrol in danger." Derby added, however, that the Dragon Eye could also be a powerful deterrent when flown at lower altitudes. "People tend to scurry away when they see it coming in low," he said.

Two Marines who use either a large rubber band or a running start to get the vehicle airborne easily deploy the craft. Once in the vehicle is in the air, a Marine controls the craft using a small computer. The Dragon Eye is specifically designed for the kind of small-unit fight the Marines of America's Battalion are experiencing, according to Derby. When man-hours are a precious commodity and a commander needs real-time intelligence with situational awareness in his battle

See DRAGON EYE, A-5



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Dragon Eye operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 3/3, monitors what the Dragon Eye's cameras see during surveillance missions.

NEWS BRIEFS

MOAA to Host Luncheon

The Hawaii Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold a luncheon April 27 at noon at the Staff NCO Club.

Guest speaker Lt. General Chip Gregson, commander, Marine Forces Pacific and Central Command will discuss “U.S. Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Advance reservations are required by today. The cost is \$16.50; guests are welcome.

Call Roberta Sullivan 623-2243 or send e-mail to info@moaa-hawaii.org. Checks payable to Hawaii Chapter MOAA may be mailed to Bill Quirk, 95-219 Aua Place, Mililani, Hawaii 96789.

For more information on MOAA call Jack Miller at 261-4100 or e-mail carita@pixi.com.

Pride Day set for April 22

On April 22, Marines and Sailors will once again gather for “Pride Day” and take part in a base-wide clean up.

Last year hundreds of volunteers joined the effort from Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Combat Service Support Group 3, 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Aircraft Group 24, Marine Corps Air Facility, Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Two, and many more.

This year Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines are encouraged to show their pride by helping to clean up both the inhabited and training areas of the base.

MMEA Plans Base Visit

Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments representatives will visit Hawaii April 25 and 26. The visit offers Marines a chance to talk with their Primary Military Occupational Specialty Monitor concerning their next duty station, career enhancement choices and/or special assignment.

There are several briefs incorporated into the visit, which caters to first-term Marines, staff and non-commissioned officers, spouses and all commissioned officers.

If you have any questions, contact your command Career Retention Specialist.

See page A-6 for more information.

Base to Honor Volunteers

MCB Hawaii will honor its volunteers with an annual volunteer recognition ceremony on April 28 from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at the Base Theater, Building 219.

Water Outage will Affect Base

There will be a water outage aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on May 7, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., in order for workers to replace a portion of the main water line coming into base.

Contact Nathan Nakamoto at 257-2171 ext. 269 with any questions.

49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon

Marines and civilian employees from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will be recognized at the 2005 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon, June 8 at 10:45 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

To attend the event, pick up tickets through May 11 in Building 216, Room 6. The ticket price of \$26 includes tax and gratuity. Validated parking will be available at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

For more information, contact Charles McTee at 257-8807.

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m.

Call 257-4300 for more information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863
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Active reserve program seeks qualified Marines

Cpl. Shawn Vincent

MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — For Marines who wish to take a different route in their Marine Corps career, or even for Marines considering separating from the Corps, the Active Reserve program may have something to offer.

With 186 Inspector-Instructor sites in every state except South Dakota, Marines have a wide variety of duty stations from which to choose.

One of the biggest benefits Marines have found with the active reserve program is being able stay active in the Marine Corps at an I&I station close to home.

After Marines serve three years in the active reserve program, they can receive permanent change of station orders to a fleet Marine Corps base.

“The active reserve program is great because it initially keeps you close to home, if there is [a unit] there,” said Cpl. Alfred M. Seley, unit diary clerk for Detachment Bulk Fuel Company, in Green Bay, Wis. “I like being able to be closer to home than I was before and still have the same benefits as if I were on active duty.”

On the active reserve Web site, www.manpower.usmc.mil/joinar, Marines can look at the state of their choice to see which military occupational specialties are available for their rank.

Billetts can be filled by qualified sergeants and below. Some Marines may be retrained into a new MOS if they meet all the prerequisites. “We cover about 70 percent of MOS

billetts,” said Maj. Erik Cook, head of Active Reserve Assignments, Reserve Affairs Manpower.

Some of the basic requirements to become an active reserve Marine include:

- Must be a member of the Marine Corps Reserve or be a member of the active component within six months of end of active service.
- Must meet height and weight standards per Marine Corps Order 6100.10B.
- Must have education, training and experience equal with grade and MOS or be eligible for retraining.
- Must not be in receipt of retainer/retired or disability pay for service with any of the armed forces.

Active reserve Marines make up about one-third of the 6,700 active duty support personnel assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve. Although the largest number of active duty Marines who support the reserve are active component officer and enlisted Marines, about 160 government civilian employees also support the Marine Corps Reserve.

The active reserve community is a relatively small, but important, part of the total force and plays a critical role in the overall readiness of the reserve. “An active reserve Marine develops a high level of expertise within the reserve component,” said Lt. Col. Eric F. Peterson, head, Reserve Affairs Manpower. “They are experts on reserve related issues. They’re full-time but focused on the reserve component.”

In response to questions about active reserve end strength, “We’re working hard

to keep our end strength up,” Peterson said. “We didn’t quite make our end-strength goal last year, so we changed our approach to recruiting.” Peterson said that when an enlisted Marine previously applied for the active reserve, they could wait three to four months for an answer while waiting for the board to convene. “We would announce the board via a [Marine administrative message] and it would assemble at Quantico. It would take months,” he said. “When Marines are looking for a job, they don’t have months.”

The process has now been streamlined so a Marine can now submit an application and be notified of selection within 10 working days. The application to become an active reserve Marine can now be filled out online in a three-step process, or can be filled out with a career retention specialist, transitional recruiter or a prior service recruiter.

According to the Web site, a RAM monitor will contact the Marine applying for the active reserve program within 10 working days of receipt of the application. The monitor will advise the Marine of his or her selection status.

Peterson also said that reserve Marines currently mobilized could apply to the active reserve for duty.

The active reserve is currently at strength for officers, but holds two officer accession boards per year to ensure a continual influx of high-quality officers. However, the enlisted side needs a few good Marines. There are 351 officers and 1,910 enlisted Marines authorized in the active reserve. Currently there are 354 officers and 1,837 enlisted Marines in the AR.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.manpower.usmc.mil/joinar.



SEAS Tour

Cpl. Richard A. Johnson, a rifleman assigned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, explains the different statistics of the 50-caliber rifle to Peter Uinokurov, a Russian member of the Symposium on East Asia Security group. The SEAS group visited the base April 7 and was given command briefings of MARFORPAC and K-Bay as well as a tour, which included a ground-equipment static display. SEAS, organized in 1986, brings representatives from different regions throughout the world together to learn about security and how to identify challenges or threats to their nations. Hawaii was the first stop on their annual four-week tour that will take them on to other places like Japan, Korea and China.



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Post and Relief



ROBERTS

Sgt. Maj. R.E. Roberts Jr. will assume command of 3rd Marine Regiment from Sgt. Maj. David L. Smith in a Post and Relief ceremony, today at 10 a.m. at the Pacific War Memorial.

Roberts came to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay in August 2003 as battalion sergeant major of 3rd Radio Battalion.



SMITH

Smith is retiring after nearly 30 years in the Marine Corps. He came to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay in August 2003 as the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Regiment.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, easterly winds at 10-15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, easterly winds at 8-12 mph

High — 81
Low — 72

Saturday



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, easterly winds at 10-15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers, easterly winds at 8-12 mph

High — 81
Low — 72

Sunday



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, northerly winds at 12-18 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy skies, light northeasterly winds at 15-20 mph

High — 80
Low — 71

Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Base Theater

April 25, 11 a.m.

ANZAC Day Memorial
Ceremonial Band, National Memorial of the Pacific

April 25, 5:30 p.m.

Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

April 28, 6 p.m.

Eagle Scout Banquet
Brass Quintet, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances can be found on the Web at www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.html.



Marines from 3rd Radio Battalion line up single-file as they prepare to conduct room-clearing procedures during their training at the Regimental Schools where they went through the Enhanced Marksmanship Program and Support and Stability Operations course.



Marines from 3rd Radio Battalion use special magazines that fire simulated rounds during training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo.



Above — Marines simulate being shot as they lay on the floor of a training room at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. Marines of 3rd Radio Battalion were at Bellows going through a Support and Stability Operations course. Right — A Marine assigned to 3rd Radio Battalion simulates checking “the enemy” to ensure he is deceased, during a recent training exercise that helped sharpen their rifleman skills prior to an upcoming deployment.



Marines poise at the ready as they simulate room-clearing procedures. Marines of 3rd Radio Battalion recently went through the Regimental Schools Enhanced Marksmanship Program and a Support and Stability Operations course to sharpen their rifleman skills.

Battle ready

3rd Radio Battalion readies for another deployment

Story and Photos By
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, WAIMANALO, Hawaii — A lot of phrases are engrained into the minds of Marines during the years they spend in the Corps. Some of the more familiar include, “Early is on time; on time is late; late is unacceptable,” “Pain is weakness leaving the body,” and “What doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger.”

But, above all other idioms, there is one that no other service has been able to adopt; one that was coined by Marines and will forever be a Corps motto, second only to “Semper Fidelis.” That phrase is, “Every Marine is a basic rifleman.”

Yet, although every Marine is taught basic rifle skills and continues to sharpen his or her skill by spending two weeks annually on the rifle range, that may not be sufficient enough time to provide the Marine with enough confidence in the weapon that he or she will take on a deployment to combat areas such as Fallujah, and Ramadi, Iraq.

The Marines of 3rd Radio Battalion, recently took the initiative to better prepare themselves for an upcoming deployment by engaging in more realistic combat training — they went through the Regimental Schools Enhanced Marksmanship Program and a Support and Stability Operations course at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

“This will be some of these Marines’ third time deploying to OIF; OEF,” said Sgt. Juan A.

Orduno, motor transportation operator, 3rd Radio Battalion. “But this is the first time that we are all receiving this training to prepare us for combat.”

According to Gunnery Sgt. Jason S. Eastman, company gunnery sergeant, Alpha Company, 3rd Radio Battalion, the soon-to-be deployed Marines received information back from units and individuals who were, or are currently, deployed overseas about the type of training they should receive before they leave. Based on that information, he said, they set aside time to provide the Marines with the adequate training necessary to best perform in a combat environment.

The Marines received instruction on everything from basic rifleman skills to advanced room-clearing procedures.

“We covered patrolling, sniper procedures, vehicle checkpoints and ambush drills,” said Orduno, a San Diego, Calif. native. “This was definitely training we don’t receive on a regular basis. It was good we had the opportunity to get it before we left.”

3rd Radio Battalion is scheduled to deploy in the mid-May to early-June timeframe, for nine-month-long deployment.

“Many of the Marines will be in areas colocated with the infantry units,” said Eastman, a Savannah, Ga. native. “That is why training like this is important. We have two more main courses to go through to complete the training deemed necessary for these Marines to deploy. This training has given the Marines an idea of what to expect. We had very good instruction, and I recommend this training to other units.”



Marine Corps technology

Online machine-gun course available

Sgt. Donald Bohanner
MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — “Every Marine is a rifleman.” From the moment you receive your rifle in boot camp you learn that “your rifle is your best friend.” So being proficient in more than one tactical arm is always a plus and MarineNet has created another online course to help each Marine achieve that goal.

The M240G machine gun interactive course was designed to provide training for non-machine-gunner trained Marines across the Fleet Marine Force, but primarily targets those serving in combat arms and combat service support roles who have been assigned as “incidental” machine-gunners.

“This seven-hour course can be used by anyone, but the target audience is Marines that are assigned to machine-gun teams,” said Gunnery Sgt. Sean Stark, senior instructor for the Infantry Machine Gun Leaders Course at the School of Infantry, Camp LeJeune, N.C.

The scope of training includes an introduction to the M240G machine gun, its operational characteristics and nomenclature, disassembly and assembly, maintenance and inspection, operation, and principles of machine gun use.

“The great thing about this course is its detailed explanation and illustration of the cycle of operation, the in-depth practical application of basic zeroing the M240G, the use of videos and 3-D models to show proper care and maintenance and the instruction on preparation of fighting positions and range cards,”



Image Courtesy of Marine Corps College of Continuing Education

The M240G machine gun interactive course was designed to provide training for nonmachine-gunner trained Marines across the Fleet Marine Force, but primarily targets those serving in combat arms and combat service support roles who have been assigned as “incidental” machine-gunners.

explained Stark. “Anyone, anywhere can benefit from this course as long as they have access to a computer.”

At the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Schools of Infantry were inundated with requests to send non-infantry personnel through the SOI Machine-Gunner’s Course. These non-infantry Marines come from other combat arms military occupational specialties, such as artillery or combat service support commands where assignment as member of a machine-gun team is a secondary duty.

“During a command visit, the 1st Force

Service Support Group commanding general identified a shortfall in machine-gun training for Marines assigned to machine-gun teams within the FSSG,” said Stark. “Overwhelmed, SOI determined that an alternative training program was needed and contacted Training and Education Command and the College of Continuing Education for assistance.”

According to Stark, this training will better prepare Marines for combat and make the ranges safer.

“Having the ability to verify a baseline of training prior to arriving at the range for live-fire exercises will make the ranges safely and efficiently run,” said Stark. “It will also reduce the amount of instructor man-hours required to teach Marines the ins and outs of the M240G.”

Machine guns are prevalent throughout the Marine Corps, but school-trained machine-gunners are only found in the infantry. There are several efforts throughout the Marine Corps to close the training gap for nonmachine-gunners assigned to machine-gun teams. “These Marines are expected to properly maintain and employ these weapons, often without adequate training,” said Stark. “The Schools of Infantry have sent mobile training teams, division schools have hosted courses, and the FSSGs have supported consolidated machine-gun training for units prior to their deployments.

Simulations add ‘playtime’ to training, save money

Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher
Headquarters Marine Corps

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington — Simulation training is taking some of the “field” out of training.

Though hands-on, been-there-done-that, real field experience will always be a vital part of the training cycle, simulated training will play a much larger role in the future, said Capt. Erik Jilson, a modeling and simulation analyst at the Technology

Division, Training and Education Command at MCB Quantico, Va. Scenario-driven computer exercises, virtual-reality video games and hi-tech equipment simulators are meant to augment live training, saving money, time and lives.

“The training that takes place before live training has the goal of better preparing Marines. When live training [occurs], less time is spent getting up to speed and the ‘in the field’ training time is more effective,” said Jilson.

Simulators usually take less time and fewer personnel to set up. Scenarios can be played repeatedly through simulations, and many simulators also include an after-action reporting process for evaluation.

“The best training is live, but it is costly in training dollars,” said Truman C. Preston, assistant chief of staff, G7, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Repetition is part of training; “the more times you do [something] the better you get,” he said. “Simulations are more cost effective ways to build in the repetitions needed to gain experience.”

Simulation training also puts no wear and tear on vehicles or aircraft, and it expends no ammunition, fuel, or other expendable materials. A 2nd Marine Division commanding general in the mid-80s credited a one-week division-level, computer-assisted exercise with saving more than \$70,000 in radio batteries alone, Preston said.

“Needless to say, savings in 2005 dollars would be considerably more,” said Preston, who retired from the Corps as a lieutenant colonel after more than 28 years.

Simulations allow Marines to make and learn from mistakes in an environment that does not result in deaths. “Using simulations, trainers can inflict casualties on trainees for improper tactics, bad decisions, poor team coordination, etc., and make them bleed, so to speak,” he said.

Marines who “bleed” in the simulations, “hopefully won’t bleed in actual combat,” he said.

Computer-based programs are the name of the game

Marine units must train to operate seamlessly in joint- and combined-service environments, but these types of training exercises are not always feasible. Deployments, operational tempo, time and logistics constraints, or a variety of other reasons are barriers to live training, Jilson said.

Computer-based gaming systems fill this training void.

Let the games begin

The Marine Corps’ virtual training arsenal has expanded to take advantage of the proliferation of video game technology.

Training and Education Command is poised to unveil the Corps’ version of the commercial game “Close Combat: First to Fight” in late spring of this year. The game is a tactical decision simulation, first-person personal computer program designed to train infantry Marines on fire teams.

The Marine Corps worked closely with Destineer Studios during the development of “Close Combat: First to Fight.”

The Marine Corps provided thousands of pages of doctrine and more than 40 Marines to work with a Destineer development team to incorporate Marine Corps combat

“However, these efforts have been unable to effectively close the training gap in a time-effective manner. This course was developed to provide more adequate training to the machine-gun teams. It will significantly increase a machine-gun team’s ability to maintain and safely employ the weapon. Ideally, this course would be used as a pre-work prior to going to the range.” This course is also intended to meet requests for sustainment and refresher training for infantry Marines.

“This course prepares the student for going into combat with crucial training on the M240G that they might not get otherwise,” said Stark.

The M240G course is available in the MarineNet course catalog. Log on to MarineNet, go to the “Course Catalog” section, select “Military Occupational Specialty Training Courses,” and select “Infantry.”

MarineNet is the Marine Corps’ online learning network that provides Marines with access to both military and civilian education programs. MarineNet offers more than 750 courses from “Computer Networking” to “Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Individual Survival Measures.” It also offers custom Marine Corps training courses and business and information technology courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week. MarineNet allows students to take tests online and receive credit. Some classes are transferable for college credit, depending on individual college requirements.

For more information, call the MarineNet Help Desk at (888) 435-8762 or submit a request at www.marinenet.usmc.mil.

tactics into the game, said Peter Tamte, president, Destineer Studios.

The Corps’ contribution of subject matter experts and about \$900,000 resulted in a realistic fire-team trainer to which the Corps has unlimited distribution rights for Marine Corps use, Jilson said.

The collaboration gives Destineer a game they bill as “the real-life experiences of the proud few.” They hope it better illustrates to the gaming community the honor, courage and commitment it takes to be a Marine, said Tamte.

The production of an average video game costs between \$5 million and \$20 million, said Tamte.

Marine Corps input is pervasive throughout the game.

In “First to Fight,” a player selects three men from a roster of 20 characters to fill his four-man fire team. About 15 of the characters are based on active duty Marines. “We hope that surrounding players with real-life Marines will help create a taste of what it might be like to actually be a Marine in urban combat,” said Tamte.

Staff Sgt. Hector “Casanova” Arellano, with 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 1st Marine Division, had just returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom I when he was approached to help with the game.

He provided input on fire-team tactics like clearing stairs and rooms

See SIMULATOR, A-7



Photo Courtesy of Close Combat: First to Fight

In a screen shot from “Close Combat: First to Fight,” Marines move in on the enemy. The game’s characters use the latest Marine Corps doctrine used by infantry units deployed around the world during its game play. This learning tool teaches Marines close-combat tactics in urban terrains.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. Richard Derby, battalion maintenance chief and Dragon Eye operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, launches a Dragon Eye over the mountains of Afghanistan.

DRAGON EYE, From A-1

space, the Dragon Eye comes into play.

“We use it to check out potential rocket points of origin and improvised explosive devices or even fighting positions that Marines might have difficulty picking out from the ground,” said Staff Sgt. Khalif Ahmad, platoon sergeant with the battalion’s Headquarters and Service Company. “It’s definitely keeping our situational awareness at a higher level.”

With a UHF transmission capability of 5 kilometers and a 100-meter field of view, the aircraft can record video and take still shots of the battlefield, all of which are relayed in real time to the operator.

“While squads are out and searching an area, I can fly the Dragon Eye to more outlying areas to see what’s going on,” said Derby. “It saves us a lot of time and increases our effectiveness.”

In addition to its effectiveness in a combat zone, the Dragon Eye is extremely easy to

use and to store. Unlike other unmanned aerial vehicles that require constant control, the Dragon Eye is controlled by a small laptop computer on which the operator enters a preset route and then monitors the cameras through a glasses-like video screen. The vehicle itself can be broken down into five separate parts for easy storage.

Having a “bird’s eye view” of the terrain is a plus for the Marines.

“I’m the eyes aloft for the patrol leader, and I’m always just a call away when he needs more information or for me to check out an area,” said Derby, whose training on the Dragon Eye consisted of an intensive four-day class after which he was able to deploy and maneuver the craft in the field with little difficulty.

“The trick is in dealing with all of the mountains,” said Derby. “The terrain here is tough on Marines, and it’s tough on the Dragon Eye’s sensors, too. It’s a learning process for me to improve its handling and work around some of its limitations.”

Enlisted monitors plan late April visit

Master Sgt. Patrick O. Buckley
Career Planner

During their career, Marines can expect to receive permanent change of station orders. Monitors assign Marines PCS orders according to what billets need to be filled. Enlisted Marines here will have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with their monitor during the Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments branch’s annual tour.

MMEA representatives will visit Hawaii April 25 and 26. The visit offers Marines a chance to talk with their Primary Military Occupational Specialty Monitor concerning their next duty station, career enhancement choices and/or special assignment.

“Every Marine, from the rank of private through the rank of sergeant major, needs to see their monitor. The MMEA show is so much more than the monitors,” explained Master Gunnery Sgt. Joe Elisara, career retention specialist NCOIC of Marine Forces Pacific.

There are several briefs incorporated into the visit, which caters to first-term Marines,

staff and non-commissioned officers, spouses and all commissioned officers.

The Command Overview brief covers enlisted careers in general. It is essentially “Manpower 101,” and it is for all officers. The Career Brief 101 is for sergeants, staff sergeants and gunnery sergeants. Career Briefs 301 and 501 caters to senior enlisted Marines. It is for first sergeants, master sergeants, master gunnery sergeants and sergeants major. Career Brief 501 addresses the Performance Evaluation System and also targets commissioned officers, RS and ROs. A special Family Retention Presentation is a new brief to explain career benefits to spouses of enlisted Marines.

The First-Term Alignment Plan brief, or FTAP, is for first-term Marines who are deciding whether to stay in or get out of the Marine Corps.

During the FTAP briefing, Marines will learn how MMEA re-enlists Marines by their military occupational specialty and how boat spaces are filled. Marines will also hear how only a few Marines are afforded the opportunity come back to the Corps after they have already sepa-

rated.

If a Marine is looking for a special assignment, or “B-billet,” the monitors can help in that department as well. The key is to let the monitor know what you are considering.

There are no guarantees for Marines to get exactly what they are looking for when they see the monitors.

“Part of it is timing and luck,” Elisara revealed.

“There are things that happen that will effect what is available. You have to consider that Marines are being promoted and some are separating. As you go up in rank, there are fewer billets. There are many things that can contribute or prevent you from getting what you want. You don’t know,” said Elisara, hunching his shoulders.

Career counseling is a part of the visit as well. Marines seeking career advice should take their service record book and CD-ROM or microfiche.

Elisara emphasized that there are many things Marines need to weigh before going to see their monitor.

“[The monitors are] going to try and meet their goals and assignments. They are going to give you what you ask for if it is available,” he explained.

“Now some years later, you may find out that the assignment hurt you for promotion. You may have needed a B-billet at that particular time. So talk to the career counselors.

“You have to have realistic goals,” Elisara continued. “Don’t go see the monitor expecting to go to an exotic place and there isn’t even a billet for your MOS at that duty station.

Marines who intend to see the monitors should bring all necessary paperwork and appropriate documentation, to include their re-enlistment, extension and lateral move requests.

During the visit, MMEA will conduct on-the-spot re-enlistments for first-term Marines. Marines who are approved are required to complete their RELM routing sheet prior to getting the re-enlistment authority. This requirement takes a few days to complete.

If you have any questions, contact your command Career Retention Specialist.

New leave policy goes beyond safety brief

Pfc. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S.Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Marine Corps Recruiting Command’s Executive Safety Board introduced a new policy in the leave and liberty process, April 1, called the Leave Conduct Pledge.

This pledge, established at the ESB’s semi-annual meeting last year, will hopefully reduce the number of off-duty mishaps.

The major topic of discussion was that 55 Marines died in off-duty accidents in the past 12 months. The proposal for the pledge was discussed to reinforce the vitally important contribution of the individual Marine to country, Corps and unit, according to MARADMIN 134/05.

Sgt. Evan G. Williams, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Reactionary Force for U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, wondered if this is really necessary, because Marines are already required to attend safety

briefs, lectures, and other events that focus on teaching safety to Marines.

Many senior Marines believe the pledge will be a great help to safety awareness.

“This will make Marines think more of their fellow Marines, not just their own safety,” said Sgt. Maj. J.D. Williams, sergeant major, Headquarters & Service Battalion, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

Parts of the pledge are concerned with the contribution that the Marine makes to his “fellow Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines.”

“This is a great piece of material,” said Sgt. Maj. Williams. “It embodies what Marines do best — and that is take care of one another.”

The pledge was written by several junior non-commissioned officers, Cpls. Amir Golshani, Gregory Johannes, Dion Hopkins, Terence Harrell and Sgt. Audra Kaufenberg.

See PLEDGE, A-7

Salutes

Returned from deployment

Staff Sgt. Alan B. Jefferson, 34
Legal Chief
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Cheyenne, Wyo.
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/Aug. 27, 2004 to April 1
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (4), Navy And Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (4), GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal (2), Letter of Appreciation (5), Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award), Meritorious Mast

Promotions

Sgt. Shamrock’s Full “Danno” O’Blarney
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Mascot
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Promotion Date: April 5

Lance Cpl. John P. McCallum Jr., 20
Personnel Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Winnebago, Ill.
Promotion Date: April 1
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal Certificate of Appreciation (2)

Lance Cpl. Richard A. McQuade, 19
Personnel Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Jackson, N.C.
Promotion Date: April 1
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation

Awards

Sgt. Maj. William T. Wilson Jr., 44
Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion
Home Town: Mayesville, S.C.
Award received/date: Meritorious Service Medal/April 5



To submit information for “Salutes,” send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8835.

SIMULATOR, From A-4

and moving under fire, said Arellano, a Los Angeles native who is also featured as one of the characters in the game.

The commercial version, which will be available for Xbox, Macintosh and Windows, is scheduled for release in March for about \$40.

“While [tactical decision simulations] are games, when used with a training plan and facilitation they are valuable tools for improving war fighting skills,” said Jilson.

The MEF simulation centers and infantry military occupational specialty schoolhouses already using TDSs will be the first to get “Close Combat: First to Fight.” Units interested in the TDS should contact their MEF simulation center or the Technology Division of the Training and Education Command.

Training in the air ...

The next step to more realistic simulation training takes Marines out of the computer room and puts them into equipment simulators.

Pilots at Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Training Squadron 204 based at Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., spend considerably more time in simulators, training to fly the MV-22 Osprey, than in the actual aircraft, said Col. Joel “Coach” Kane, the commanding officer of the squadron.

During the four-month initial instruction phase of the curriculum, pilots are in the MV-22 Full Flight Simulator 60 hours and in the aircraft 36, Kane said. “Flight simulators do an outstanding job of introducing pilots and aircrew to a specific type, model or series of aircraft.”

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off like a helicopter. Thanks to the two rotors mounted to its wings that tilt forward, it can convert to fly as a plane. This transition “creates some unique aerodynamic challenges that pilots must work through,” Kane said.

In the simulators, a student pilot “gets a feel” for what is required to maintain control of the aircraft “long before ever getting into the seat of an actual MV-22,” he said.

A mistake in the aircraft could result in the loss of life and a more than \$80 million dollar aircraft. A mistake in the simulator means a reboot by the instructor and students try again.

On land ...

Marines attending the M-1A1 Main Battle Tank crewman course at the Army’s Armor Center at Fort Knox, Ky., know of the demand for M-1A1 Tank-Driver simulators.

The simulators are mock-ups of tank compartments. The boxed compartments are mounted to mechanical systems so that when students move the controls, the compartments move, said Master Sgt. Bernard Provost, the operations chief at the Marine Corps Detachment there.

Due to the high demand for simulator time, students average only about four hours in the simulators, but those four hours are valuable, Provost said.

“Tanks are kind of hard to stop and it’s better to make your mistakes in the simulators; it greatly reduces your mistakes out in the training field,” he said.

Not only do the simulators get first-timer mistakes out of the way, they increase the variety of a student’s training

experience. The basic tank course is only 53 training days long, but with the simulators, a student attending during summer can still learn how to operate the tank in winter conditions, he said.

“The simulators change not just the weather but the terrain; whatever the simulator operators dictate,” he said.

... And sea

Another up and coming vehicle that will rely on equipment simulators during training is the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle. The EFV, currently in development, is the next generation of AAV.

Seven different types of trainers are planned for specific areas or tasks in the EFV, according to Daniel Dykstra, the division head for Manpower, Personnel, and Training of the Logistics Directorate under the Direct Reporting Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault. Planned simulators include a driver simulator, a turret simulator and a weapons station maintenance trainer.

The trainers are still in development and have yet to be tested. They will support a curriculum that is being developed. Based on a study by Program Manager for Training Systems, Marine Corps Systems Command, based in Orlando, Fla., students can expect to spend 20 to 50 hours in the more complex simulators, like the driver and turret simulators, Dykstra said.



Image Courtesy of Flight Safety International

Flight simulators, like the one shown above for the MV-22 Osprey, save time, fuel and aircraft flight hours. Osprey program managers said that using simulators to complete up to 75 percent of initial-level training at the Fleet Marine Replacement Squadron in Quantico, Va., could also reduce the number of Osprey marked for training from 40 to 20.

Initial operational fielding, the first fielding of limited quantities of EFVs, is scheduled for fiscal year 2010, according to the currently proposed budget. The Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle training systems should arrive at the Assault Amphibian School at Camp Pendleton,

Calif., in fiscal year 2006.

The value of simulation training to augment live training is apparent. Wherever it is determined that virtual training — simulation — is the correct technology for training, it will be applied, said Jilson.

PLEDGE, From A-6

These Marines were given the chance to write the pledge because the junior NCOs are going to make sure the policy is carried out.

It’s a good thing that this will be tasked to the Marine’s immediate supervisor rather than their commander, said Sgt. Maj. Williams. He also agreed this will give younger leaders a chance to implement leadership skills.

Even with this pledge, the old measures of safety awareness should not be ruled out, according to Sgt. Williams.

The pledge is simply going to be a reminder to Marines about the importance of safety — to themselves, and the success of the overall mission.

With his fist in the air, clenched in excitement, Sgt. Maj. Williams explained why this new pledge is important.

“This pledge could be a life-saver if taken seriously. It’s a shot at integrity and sometimes that is all a Marine has, and is something he will hang onto. I believe Marines will take this pledge seriously. The most important thing to Marines is taking care of other Marines.”



Instructors at Mountain Warfare Training Center roleplay as aggressors during a training exercise. Many of the instructors have already deployed and have a working experience of the areas the 2/3 Marines will deploy to.

2/3, From A-1

so if we can train to do the basics well here in 20 degree weather and snow, the battalion will be that much more prepared for our upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring

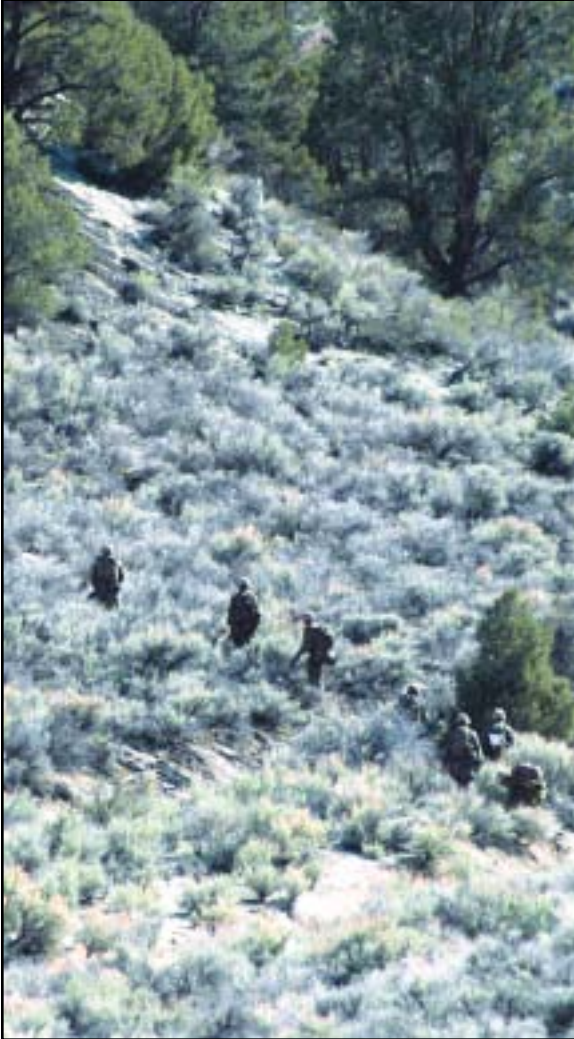
After battling cold temperatures all day, 2/3 Marines try to find a dry spot to eat evening chow during a two-week training evolution. Weather was a factor in all aspects of training at Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., and 90 miles away at Hawthorne, Nev., with elevations of 8,000 feet and higher.

Freedom,” said Capt. Kelly J. Grissom, assistant operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, from Greensboro, N.C. Besides logistics there are many other difficulties associated with mountain warfare. The Marines have to take extra care with their

ters and winter boots greatly burden Marines who are already carrying 80 pounds of gear. Food is also an issue. In normal conditions the body requires 2,000 to 2,200 calories a day; at high elevations the body needs about 4,500 calories a day.



Since the amount of energy burned is higher than normal, more food must be carried further increasing the load and hardship on the Marines. “It’s great. We’re supposed to expend less energy while trying to carry twice as much gear uphill,” said a laughing Cpl. Brett R. Bailer, assaultman, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and East Lansing, Mich., resident. “It wasn’t just the mountain training that made us miserable, just getting to the training area was the worst experience of my life. We had to sit in the backs of the convoy trucks which are open air, it was about 40 degrees, and we were driving 60 mph. I have never been that cold in my life.”



A squad of Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol at Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif.

Read the *Hawaii Marine* online at www.mcbh.usmc.mil

RETURN, From A-1

Fallujah,” admitted Staff Sgt. Hornsby. “Seeing my wife again, and my son’s face — for the first time — is just a blessing. I’m so glad to be home.”

Bravo Company returned two days later and were greeted with an identical welcoming party.

“I’m just glad to be home,” said Lance Cpl. Phillip M. Mixon, field wireman, Bravo Company. “When I saw my wife and daughter, it was overwhelming.”



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are welcomed home by other unit members at Barracks 1056, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday.

Mixon, a Chicago native, said it was his family that he thought about the entire time he was in Iraq, and thinking about them kept him going.

“My family is what pushed me everyday,” said Mixon. “Now that I’m home, we’re going to go on vacation.”

During their deployment, the unit suffered the largest casualties for a single day in the war when a CH-53E crashed on its way to the Jordanian border in January.

Members of Charlie Company had participated in some of the fiercest fighting in Operation Al Fajr in Fallujah last November. After the battle they prepared to aid the I Marine Expeditionary Force by providing security for the elections and where on their way to a new location when their helicopter crashed.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Left — Staff Sgt. William F. Hornsby holds his 3-month-old son, Ethan, for the first time. His wife, Beth, waited anxiously at the Honolulu Airport with many other spouses of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Marines, April 7, for the return of their husbands after a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

Center — Cpl. Damon Winter of Weapons Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hugs his father, Bob Winter, who surprised his son by flying here from Phoenix, Ariz., to greet him when he arrived home after a seven-month combat deployment.



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Lance Cpl. Steven E. Perry, 22, a Cedar Springs, Mich. native and field radio operator for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, guards his unit’s guidon during their homecoming, Saturday. The unit left last July on a scheduled deployment to Okinawa, Japan, where they joined the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The unit received orders to Iraq where they participated in liberating the city of Fallujah from insurgents last November and later provided security for the country’s first free elections.